



Fight The Bite

The First Line Of Defense

West Nile Virus

Reporting Dead Bird Species

The Mississippi State Department of Health Reminds the Public to Report and Submit Dead Birds:

- Report all species of dead birds.
- Submit only blue jays and crows for testing.

Dead bird reports (all species) and dead bird submissions (blue jays and crows) allow health professionals to track West Nile virus. Although not all blue jays and crows need to be tested, certain selected samples will be sent for testing. The dead blue jay or crow, itself, might not be a source of West Nile virus for people or pets; although, people should wear gloves when handling any dead bird or mammal because of the possibility of other diseases.

To report dead birds, call the number listed under Health Department in the White Pages of the BellSouth telephone book.

You will be asked the following questions:

- What species is the bird?
- Where is it located? Include street address, town and zip code. *If this information is not known, be as exact as possible by providing cross streets, landmarks and town.*
- If it is a dead blue jay or crow, when did you first observe it, and what is its condition? Is it fresh, decomposing, or damaged in some way?

Based on your answers to the above questions, the health department staff will decide whether the blue jay or crow is suitable for testing. If it is deemed suitable for testing, we ask that you bring it to your local health department.

Be sure to take precautions when handling a dead blue jay or crow:

- Wear gloves.
- Double-bag the dead bird and keep it cool.
- Dispose of bird if not transporting to health department.

The Mississippi State Department of Health greatly appreciates the assistance of all residents who report and submit dead birds. This information is vital to our efforts to understand West Nile virus. For more information on West Nile virus and the "Fight the Bite" campaign, visit the Department's web site at: www.msdh.state.ms.us.



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Public Health — The First Line of Defense

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